

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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41

ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 /024 W
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R 021445Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3343

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 01615

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BTRA, SY (SAUNDERS, ORAVL)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF MR. ORVAL O. SAUNDERS

REF: STATE 101586

1. EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST MR. SAUNDERS AND HIS PARTY. SYRIAN PROCEDURE FOR ARRANGING CALLS ON HIGHRANKING OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY DEPPRIMIN HAYDAY(ARABIC ONLY), MINECON IMADI, AND MINTOURISM KHANI, WHOSE SCHEDULES ARE HABITUALLY TIGHT, REQUIRES SUBMISSION OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROVIDING FULL INFORMATION ON CALLERS AND REASONS FOR APPOINTMENT. STRONGLY DOUBT WHETHER HAIDAR WILL BE AVAILABLE BUT CALLS ON IMADI AND KHANI OR THEIR DEPUTIES SHOULD BE POSSIBLE.

2. BEFORE ACTING ON REFTTEL, THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOWING FURTHER INFORMATION:

A. PARTY'S HOTEL IN BEIRUT; HOW TRAVELING FROM BEIRUT TO DAMASCUS MAY 18, AND ETA. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT PARTY HAS VALID SYRIAN VISAS AND THEIR ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS.

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B. SIZE AND NATURE OF PARTY, FULL NAMES, COMPWNY

AFFILIATIONS AND SPECIALITIES, WIVES INCLUDED OR NOT.

C. WHETHER SUBJECTS OTHER THAN 1976 BICENTENNIAL
AND STATE FAIR OF OKLAHOMA CITY WOULD BE DISCUSSED, E.E.,
CAN MORE COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS BE COVERED.

D. IF GROUP IS PLANNING HAVE ITS TRAVEL AGENT ARRANGE
LUNCHEON WHILE IN DAMASCUS, WOULD BE HAPPY SUGGEST
APPROPRIATE SYRIAN GUESTS.

3. IN CONTACTING REP JARMAN AND SAUNDERS, REQUEST DEPT
EXPRESS OUR PLEASURE THAT SAUNDERS AND PARTY PLANNING VISIT
SYRIA. VISITS OF PROMINENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN NOT ONLY
ENHANCES PROSPECTS FOR SALES OF US EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES
BUT ALSO HELP REBUILD PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE UNDERSTANDING AFTER
SEVEN YEARS WITHOUT RELATIONS. SUGGEST ALSO THAT SAUNDERS
PLAN TELEPHONE ECON/CML OFFICER RODERICK M. WRIGHT FROM
BEIRUT ON MAY 16 OR 17 TO CONFIRM DETAILS (TELS: 332.814,
332315; HOME 332598). WRIGHT WILL PLAN TO BE AVAILABLE
EARLY SUNDAY MORNING MAY 18 TO MEET WITH GROUP.
MURPHY

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NNN

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